

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Amended) An inkjet printer, comprising:

an inkjet head that ejects ink onto a recording medium;

a movable ink tank having an ink introducing opening, an ink storing space in which ink introduced through the ink introducing opening is stored, and an ink discharging opening through which the ink of the ink storing space is supplied to the inkjet head; and

a carriage supporting the inkjet head and the movable ink tank, the carriage reciprocating in a direction perpendicular to a feeding direction of the recording medium,

wherein the movable ink tank includes a partition wall that divides the ink storing space into multiple rooms, the multiple rooms being arranged in a direction parallel to a reciprocating direction of the carriage, the multiple rooms being in fluid communication with each other only at upper portions thereof, the partition wall having a portion extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the reciprocating direction of the carriage, and the upper portions of the multiple rooms being located opposite and distal from the inkjet head in the direction substantially perpendicular to the reciprocating direction of the carriage.

2. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the partition wall divides the ink storing space into a first ink room being in fluid communication with the ink introducing opening and a second ink room being in fluid communication with the ink discharging opening.

3. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, further comprising:

a stationary ink tank; and

a tube that connects the movable ink tank with the stationary ink tank to supply ink of the stationary ink tank into the movable ink tank.

4. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the partition wall consists of the portion which is substantially perpendicular to the reciprocating direction of the carriage.

5. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 4, wherein the ink introducing opening is arranged so that the ink is introduced into the movable ink tank in parallel with the partition wall.

6. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of a side wall of the movable ink tank is flexible.

7. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 6, wherein the flexible portion of the side wall of the movable ink tank faces the partition wall.

8. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein one of the multiple rooms of the movable ink tank is in fluid communication with the ink introducing opening and has a side wall of which portion facing the partition wall is flexible.

9. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the ink introducing opening is located lower than a top edge of the partition wall.

10. (Previously Amended) An inkjet printer, comprising:

an inkjet head that ejects ink onto a recording medium;

a movable ink tank having an ink introducing opening, an ink storing space in which ink introduced through the ink introducing opening is stored, and an ink discharging opening through which the ink of the ink storing space is supplied to the inkjet head; and

a carriage that supports the inkjet head and the movable ink tank, the carriage reciprocating in a direction perpendicular to a feeding direction of the recording medium,

wherein the movable ink tank includes a partition wall that divides the ink storing space into multiple rooms, the multiple rooms being arranged in a direction parallel to a reciprocating direction of the carriage, the multiple rooms being in fluid communication with each other at upper portions thereof, the partition wall having a portion extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the reciprocating direction of the carriage, and wherein the partition wall is flexible.

11. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the movable ink tank includes a divider plate protruding downward from a ceiling of the ink storing space, the divider plate dividing an upper part of one of the multiple rooms defined in the ink storing space.

12. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 11, wherein a lower end of the divider plate is located lower than a top edge of the partition wall.

13. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 12, wherein a lower end portion of the divider plate and an upper end portion of the partition wall face each other.

14. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the movable ink tank includes multiple divider plates protruding downward from respective ceilings of the multiple rooms defined in the ink storing space.

15. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of at least one side of the movable ink tank is light transmissive.

16. (Previously Amended) An inkjet printer, comprising:

an inkjet head that ejects ink onto a recording medium;

a movable ink tank having an ink introducing opening, an ink storing space in which ink introduced through the ink introducing opening is stored, and an ink discharging opening through which the ink of the ink storing space is supplied to the inkjet head; wherein at least a part of at least one side of the movable ink tank is light transmissive; and wherein the light transmissive part of the movable ink tank is flexible;

a carriage that supports the inkjet head and the movable ink tank, the carriage reciprocating in a direction perpendicular to a feeding direction of the recording medium,

wherein the movable ink tank includes a partition wall that divides the ink storing space into multiple rooms, the multiple rooms being arranged in a direction parallel to a reciprocating direction of the carriage, the multiple rooms being in fluid communication with each other at

upper portions thereof, the partition wall having a portion extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the reciprocating direction of the carriage.

17. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 15, further comprising an optical liquid level sensor that detects the ink level within the movable ink tank through the light transmissive part of the movable ink tank.

18. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein one of the multiple rooms of the movable ink tank is in fluid communication with the ink discharging opening and has a side wall of which portion facing the partition wall is light transmissive.

19. (Previously Amended) An inkjet printer, comprising:

an inkjet head that ejects ink onto a recording medium;

a movable ink tank having an ink introducing opening, an ink storing space in which ink introduced through the ink introducing opening is stored, and an ink discharging opening through which the ink of the ink storing space is supplied to the inkjet head; and

a carriage that supports the inkjet head and the movable ink tank, the carriage reciprocating in a direction perpendicular to a feeding direction of the recording medium,

wherein the movable ink tank includes a partition wall that divides the ink storing space into multiple rooms, the multiple rooms being arranged in a direction parallel to a reciprocating direction of the carriage, the multiple rooms being in fluid communication with each other at upper portions thereof, the partition wall having a portion extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the reciprocating direction of the carriage,

wherein one of the multiple rooms of the movable ink tank is in fluid communication with the ink discharging opening and has a side wall of which portion facing the partition wall is light transmissive, and wherein the light transmissive portion is flexible.

20. (Original) The inkjet printer according to claim 18, further comprising an optical liquid level sensor that detects the ink level within the movable ink tank through the light transmissive portion.

21. (Previously Amended) The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the movable ink tank further comprises:

a first ink room that receives the ink from a stationary ink source; and

a second ink room that receives the ink from the first ink room and supplies the ink to the inkjet head,

wherein both the first and second ink rooms are formed narrower in a reciprocating direction of the inkjet head than in a direction perpendicular to the reciprocating direction.

22. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 21, wherein the first and second ink rooms are arranged in the reciprocating direction and separated from each other with a plate like wall formed perpendicular to the reciprocating direction.

23. (Previously Amended) An ink tank, to be connected with an inkjet head for supplying ink to and moving integrally with the inkjet head when the inkjet head reciprocates to print on an object, the ink tank comprising:

a first ink room that receives the ink from a stationary ink source; and

a second ink room that receives the ink from the first ink room and supplies the ink to the inkjet head,

wherein both the first and second ink rooms are formed narrower in a reciprocating direction of the inkjet head than in a direction perpendicular to the reciprocating direction

wherein the said first and second ink rooms are arranged in the reciprocating direction and separated from each other with a plate like wall formed perpendicular to the reciprocating direction, and wherein the plate like wall has flexibility to absorb pressure fluctuation in the ink within the first and second ink rooms.

24. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 23,

wherein the plate like wall is a flexible film.

25. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 21,

wherein an opening is formed above the plate like wall to allow the ink in the first ink room to flow into the second ink room over the plate like wall.

26. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 22, wherein at least a part of a side wall of the first ink room facing the plate like wall has flexibility to absorb pressure fluctuation in the ink within the first ink room.

27. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 26, wherein the at least a part of the side wall of the first ink room is a flexible film.

28. (Previously Amended) An ink tank to be connected with an inkjet head for supplying ink to and moving integrally with the inkjet head when the inkjet head reciprocates to print on an object, the ink tank comprising:

a first ink room that receives the ink from a stationary ink source; and

a second ink room that receives the ink from the first ink room and supplies the ink to the inkjet head,

wherein both the first and second ink rooms are formed narrower in a reciprocating direction of the inkjet head than in a direction perpendicular to the reciprocating direction,

wherein the first and second ink rooms are arranged in the reciprocating direction and separated from each other with a plate like wall formed perpendicular to the reciprocating direction,

wherein at least a part of a side wall of the first ink room facing the plate like wall has flexibility to absorb pressure fluctuation in the ink within the first ink room,

wherein the at least a part of the side wall of the first ink room is a flexible film, and wherein the film is a light transmissive film.

29. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 22,

wherein at least a part of a side wall of the second ink room facing the plate like wall is light transmissive.

30. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 29, wherein the at least a part of the side wall of the second ink room is a light transmissive film.

31. (Previously Amended) An ink tank to be connected with an inkjet head for supplying ink to and moving integrally with the inkjet head when the inkjet head reciprocates to print on an object, the ink tank comprising:

a first ink room that receives the ink from a stationary ink source;

a second ink room that receives the ink from the first ink room and supplies the ink to the inkjet head;

wherein both the first and second ink rooms are formed narrower in a reciprocating direction of the inkjet head than in a direction perpendicular to the reciprocating direction;

wherein the first and second ink rooms are arranged in the reciprocating direction and separated from each other with a plate like wall formed perpendicular to the reciprocating direction;

wherein at least a part of a side wall of the second ink room facing the plate like wall is light transmissive;

wherein the at least a part of the side wall of the second ink room is a light transmissive film; and wherein the film is flexible.

32. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 21, further comprising an ink introducing channel that introduces the ink from the stationary ink source into a lower part of the first ink room.

33. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 32, wherein the lower part of the first ink room includes an expanded portion that expands in a direction perpendicular to the reciprocating direction.

34. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 32, wherein the ink introducing channel introduces the ink into the first ink room vertically downward.

35. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 32,

wherein the first and second ink rooms are arranged in the reciprocating direction and separated from each other with a plate like wall formed perpendicular to the reciprocating direction, and

wherein the ink introducing channel introduces the ink into the first ink room in parallel with the reciprocating direction.

36. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 21, further comprising an ink discharging opening formed on a bottom of the second ink room for discharging the ink into the inkjet head.

37. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 21, further comprising a divider that divides a surface of the ink in one of the first and second ink rooms into smaller areas.

38. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 37, wherein the divider divides the surface of the ink in the reciprocating direction.

39. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 37, wherein the divider divides the surface of the ink into substantially halves.

40. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 37, wherein the divider is a plate extending perpendicularly to the reciprocating direction.

41. (Original) The ink tank according to claim 40, wherein the plate protrudes downward from a ceiling of one of the first and second ink rooms.

42. (Currently Amended) An ink tank connected with an inkjet head to supply ink to an inkjet head, the ink tank and the inkjet head being mounted on a movable carriage which is reciprocally movable along a horizontal direction, the ink tank including:

an ink room that reserve the ink to be supplied to the inkjet head; and

a dividing member that divides at least a portion about a surface of the ink reserved in the ink room into a plurality of sections arranged in a movable direction of the carriage, said plurality of sections being in fluid communication with each other only at upper portions thereof.